



# Daily Reflections

**August 7, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 14: 13-27**

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist,  
he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.  
The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns.  
When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,  
his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.  
When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said,  
"This is a deserted place and it is already late;  
dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages  
and buy food for themselves."  
He said to them, "There is no need for them to go away;  
give them some food yourselves."  
But they said to him,  
"Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."  
Then he said, "Bring them here to me,"  
and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.  
Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven,  
he said the blessing, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples,  
who in turn gave them to the crowds.  
They all ate and were satisfied,  
and they picked up the fragments left over—  
twelve wicker baskets full.  
Those who ate were about five thousand men,

not counting women and children.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

"Give them some food yourselves....": Jesus did not expect those mortal men to provide the food for the multitudes, that would be a gift from His Father. He did, however, expect them to give the gift. And that is our job as disciples 2017 years later: to give from the abundance with which we have been blessed to receive.

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## **Food for your Journey**

When Jesus commanded them to sit down to eat, he used a word that has roots in the Greek word "drinking party." Perhaps knowing his crowd, he gave them permission to relax in natural groupings. But what happens next? Most translations use a different word for their action, saying that they "sat down in rows." Could it be that Jesus is giving them permission to be who they are, but they have decided to change? He has intrigued them and has given them something they hunger for: divine knowledge ....

Students sit in rows in front of their rabbi

. ... The miracle in the miracle for me is that this learned Jew, Jesus, took compassion on "us with no knowledge" and said, "I will be your teacher." We said "yes" to Jesus and became his students.

—Victoria Erickson, "Miracles happen when we study with a rabbi," October 29, 2000, Drew University Web Site, [depts.drew.edu](http://depts.drew.edu).

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You have blessed me with more than I have the capacity to recount. Help me, Lord, to imitate the Apostles of old by giving to those in need from the blessings which I have received. Amen.